(b) if so, the steps Government are taking for implementation of minimum wages to the wage earners?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 ensures that the minimum wages of scheduled employments fixed by the appropriate Government are paid to the workers. The enforcement of the Act is secured by the Central and State Governments in their respective spheres. Under the provisions of the Act, the appropriate Government officials conduct regular inspections and advice the employers to make payment of minimum wages whenever they come across any case of non-payment or less payment of wages. In case of non-adherence of the advice, there are legal and penal provisions under the Act.

Nuclear technology agreement with USA

*36. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the nuclear technology agreement signed by the Prime Minister during his visit to the US, recently;

(b) the progress made so far on the technology;

(c) whether it is a fact that the US Government has asked India to separate the military and civilian nuclear installations;

(d) if so, the time frame by which it has to be done; and

(e) the details of the response of the Indian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The understanding on civil nuclear energy cooperation set out in the India-US Joint Statement issued on July 18, 2005 during the visit of the Prime Minister to the US is significant in the context of India's quest for energy security in a cleaner and more efficient manner. The elements of this understanding contained in the Joint Statement are as follows:

- President Bush conveyed his appreciation to the Prime Minister over India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation and stated that as a responsible state with advanced nuclear

technology, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such states. The US President told the Prime Minister that he would work to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India as it realizes its goals of promoting nuclear power and achieving energy security.

- The US President would also seek agreement from the US Congress to adjust U.S. laws and policies, and the United States will work with friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India, including but not limited to expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactors at Tarapur. In the meantime, the United States will encourage its partners to also consider this request expeditiously.
- India has expressed its interest in ITER and a willingness to contribute. The United States will consult with its partners considering India's participation.
- The United States will consult with the other participants in the Generation IV International Forum with a view toward India's inclusion.
- The Prime Minister conveyed that India would reciprocally agree that it would be ready to assume the same responsibilities and practices and acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States. These responsibilities and practices consist of
    * identifying the separating civilian and military nuclear facilities and programs in a phased manner and filing a declaration regarding its civilians facilities with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
    * taking a decision to place voluntarily its civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards; signing and adhering to an Additional Protocol with respect to civilian nuclear facilities;
    * continuing India's unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing;
    * working with the United States for the conclusion of a multilateral Fissile Material Cutt Off Treaty;
    * refraining from transfer of enrichment and reprocessing

technologies to states that do not have them and supporting international efforts to limit their spread; and

* ensuring that the necessary steps have been taken to secure nuclear materials and technology through comprehensive export control legislation and through harmonization and adherence to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) guidelines.

The implementation of the July 18 Joint Statement would be guided fully and entirely by the commitments reflected in the Joint Statement only. A Working Group to this end, headed by the Foreign Secretary on the Indian side and the Under Secretary for Political Affairs of the State Department on the US side, has been set up and it held the first meeting in Delhi on October 21, 2005. It has been made very clear to the US, including at the meeting of the Working Group that our commitments and obligations would only be those that have been spelt out in the July 18 Joint Statement. Each side has expressed his perspective on next steps. A road map in this regard is as yet evolving. The position spelt out by the Prime Minister, in his statement in Parliament on July 29, 2005 that our commitments would be conditional upon, and reciprocal to the US fulfilling its side of this understanding, makes it clear that we expect a close correlation between actions to be taken by the US and India, and that Indian actions will be contingent at every stage on actions taken by the other side. The two sides are working together closely to implement the understanding at the earliest.

Single All India tariff

*37. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what exactly is the concept of 'India One';

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of having a single all India tariff;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Cellular Operators the concept of Single All India Tariff; and